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**Name of Organization:** US Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest

**Type of Organization:** Federal Agency

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**Project Title:** Native Plants

**Project Category:** Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Rest

**Rank by Organization (if applicable):** 0

**Total Funding Requested (\$):** 54,700 **Project Duration:** 2 Years

**Abstract:**

This project identifies native grasses and herbs in the Lake Superior basin that could be used to stabilize disturbed areas and reduce potential erosion and sedimentation to lakes and streams. Guidelines for transference between geographical areas is developed by looking at genetic variability of the seed sources identified and collected. Techniques are researched and/or developed for growing, harvesting and cleaning seeds of selected native grasses and herbs.

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**Geographic Areas Affected by the Project**

**States:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> New York
<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/> Ohio

**Lakes:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Superior	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie
<input type="checkbox"/> Huron	<input type="checkbox"/> Ontario
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> All Lakes

**Geographic Initiatives:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair
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**Primary Affected Area of Concern:** Not Applicable

**Other Affected Areas of Concern:**

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***For Habitat Projects Only:***

**Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area:** Not Applicable

**Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:**

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**Problem Statement:**

No source is commercially available for seeds of native grasses and herbs specific to the Lake Superior basin for seeding disturbed areas such as road sides, log landings, burned areas, etc. In contrast non-native fescues, clovers, and rye grass are easily obtained commercially and are relatively cheap. As a result, these non-native plant species are used in lieu of native plant species.

**Proposed Work Outcome:**

In order to solve this problem, the following is proposed: 1) identify native grasses and herbs that could be used for seeding and stabilizing disturbed areas; 2) identify potential native seed sources in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin; 3) collect seed from the identified sources to check for genetic variability; 4) in partnership with the National Forest Genetics Lab, genetic variability between native populations will be identified using electrophoresis; and set preliminary guidelines for transfer of seed from geographical province to geographical province; 5) research and develop growing regimes such as sowing density and fertilizer and water needs for seed production of species identified; 6) research and/or develop seed harvesting and cleaning techniques for species identified.

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**Project Milestones:**

**Dates:**

Project Start	06/2000
Native grass/herb species identified	08/2000
Seed collection	10/2000
Determine genetic variability	04/2001
Initial sowing of selected species	06/2001
Have researched growing regimes	06/2001
Researched harvest/cleaning techniques	06/2002
End: have techniques to produce seed	10/2003

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☒ Project Addresses Environmental Justice

**If So, Description of How:**

No known negative environmental or social consequences result from this project.

☒ Project Addresses Education/Outreach

**If So, Description of How:**

Techniques developed through this project will be made available to universities, other government agencies, and private growers.

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**Project Budget:**

	<b>Federal Share Requested (\$)</b>	<b>Applicant's Share (\$)</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>	35,000	15,000
<b>Fringe:</b>	0	0
<b>Travel:</b>	5,000	2,000
<b>Equipment:</b>	6,000	2,000
<b>Supplies:</b>	0	2,500
<b>Contracts:</b>	2,000	0
<b>Construction:</b>	0	0
<b>Other:</b>	0	0
<b>Total Direct Costs:</b>	48,000	21,500
<b>Indirect Costs:</b>	6,700	3,000
<b>Total:</b>	54,700	24,500
<b>Projected Income:</b>	0	0

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**Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):**

Potential partners with no firm commitments include: Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota Departments of Transportation and Departments of Natural Resources; Natural Resource Conservation Service; local Conservation Districts; Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Native American tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota; and Resource Conservation and Development (RC &D's) in the three states.

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**Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:**

The success of the project is integral with the involvement of the National Forest Genetics Lab, Camino, California and those partners listed in (8): Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota Departments of Transportation and Departments of Natural Resources; Natural Resource Conservation Service; local Conservation Districts; Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Native American tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota; and Resource Conservation and Development (RC &D's) in the three states.